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THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" I have answered this question just a few days ago in this House, and I do not have any figures now, Sir."

Manufacture of Vanaspathi.

* 50 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the article entitled " Research on Vanaspathi " published in the *Harijan* of 29th May 1949 at page 101 and the article entitled " Hydrogenated Oils " published in the same journal on 25th September 1949 at page 246;

(b) whether the Government have taken any action to prevent the manufacture of vanaspathi ; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) & (c) Pending the results of the investigations that are being conducted at the instance of the Government of India on the nutritive value of vanaspathi, the Government do not propose to discourage the manufacture of vanaspathi."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if the writer of this article has said that there are different views in regard to the nutritive value of vanaspathi and that he has dealt with only one aspect of it? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, let me read an extract of an article which appeared in the *Harijan* by one of the writers. He says ' . . . ' But I should like to base the case against vanaspathi on grounds other than health reports of experts. Unfortunately, the profession of technical experts has become as mercinary as any other and it would not be difficult to get another body of experts of equally high degree to produce a report of just the opposite type of the above . . . "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Will the Government constitute a committee of experts to examine this question and then come to a decision in the matter, and not be guided by the views of any writer of articles in journals? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" That is a very difficult matter to reply now. In case we propose to constitute a committee of experts, we will take the assistance of my hon. Friend in that committee."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that one of the committees which examined this question of the nutritive value of Vanaspathi and Vanaspathi products has come to the conclusion that they are deleterious to the health of the person and that their manufacture should be discouraged? "

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"That might be, Sir, but what I have read now relates to an article written by some person in the *Harijan*."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—"May I know, Sir, if the Government are aware that a number of hawkers go about the streets selling adulterated ghee, with more than 50 per cent of vanaspathi mixed in it, and if so, will the Government take steps to prevent its sale by such hawkers?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"One of the steps proposed to be taken is to insist on the colouring of vanaspathi and vanaspathi products, and that is the suggestion of the Government of India, so that if there is any adulteration, it could easily be detected."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—DISCUSSION ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1949-50.

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Mr. President, Sir, we are very thankful to the Hon. Minister for Finance for the very lucid explanatory notes given to the various demands that have now been placed before the House. Sir, on an occasion like this, when this House can only discuss and has not the power to vote, you will show us some indulgence, Sir, if we deal not only with matters of policy, but also go into certain details.

"Sir, let me first take the demand under Grant I—Land Revenue. The Hon. Minister for Finance was prevailed upon to provide additional staff for the Special Officer for Reduction of Rent in estates. Sir, I quite agree that when we enact some law or launch upon a new scheme, if we want it to be expedited, the officer in charge of the scheme, or the officer responsible for the implementation of the law, is entitled to ask for additional field staff. But I cannot understand the need for a greater staff in the office of the Special Officer, than the staff required for field work. You know, Sir, that it is the field staff that do all the work relating to rent reduction and all their work comes to the office of the Special Officer in a cooked form simply for being scrutinised and checked. I therefore suggest, Sir, that when such demands are made by the heads of departments, the necessity for the increase of staff at headquarters is scrutinised more carefully, because most of the work that is to be done is only by the field staff, and that scrutiny and checking alone are done by the staff at the headquarters office.

"Then, Sir, I come to Settlements. Under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, the Government find it necessary that there should be a Director of Settlements and a number of Settlement Officers under him. I do not think, Sir, that when settlement operations were in force in the ryotwari areas in former years, we had a Director of Settlements in the office of the Board of Revenue. There was only a Member of the Board of Revenue who was called the Commissioner for Settlements, who looked after the work of settlements in the districts and there